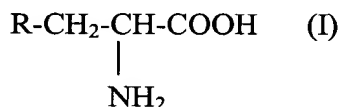


Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

22. (Currently Amended) Method for detecting and identifying and/or quantifying ~~an~~ a deaminase enzymatic activity of a microorganism, comprising:
~~bringing according to which~~ an inoculum suspected of containing a
 microorganism with a deaminase activity ~~is brought into contact with a culture medium for~~
 microorganisms, and
~~detecting and identifying and/or quantifying a deaminase enzymatic activity;~~
wherein
~~wherein~~ the culture medium comprises at least one detection agent for
 demonstrating a deaminase activity, by forming a colored product with a revealing agent
comprising a color or fluorescent indicator, an enzymatic activity;

said detection agent being an L-amino acid of following general formula (I):



in which:

—— R represents an organic radical containing a cyclic amino acid radical ring, said cyclic ring being substituted with 1 to 3 groups X, which substituents that are identical or different;

—— X represents a group other than hydrogen that, as compared to where X is hydrogen, and each of which limits the diffusion in the culture medium of the α -keto acid produced by the deamination of the cyclic amino acid at least one detection agent, as compared to where each of said substituents is not present.

23. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 22, characterized in that ~~X~~
issaid 1 to 3 substituents are chosen from hydrophobic groups.

24. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 23, ~~characterized in that X is chosen from~~ wherein said 1 to 3 substituents are each selected from the group consisting of naphthalene-sulfonyl, tosyl-sulfonyl and mesitylene-sulfonyl.

25. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 22, characterized in that the revealing agent is a cation salt.

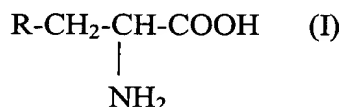
26. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 22, characterized in that the revealing agent is added to the culture medium at the same time as the detection agent.

27. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 22, characterized in that the revealing agent is added to the culture medium after culturing the microorganisms.

28. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 22, wherein the microorganisms which are detected and identified and/or quantified by enzymatic activity belong to the group *Proteus*.

29. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 22, characterized in that at least one other detection agent for demonstrating, by forming a colored or fluorescent product, an enzymatic activity which is different from that demonstrated by the compound of general formula (I) is also added to said culture medium.

30. (Currently Amended) A compound having the general formula (I):



in which:

——— R represents an organic radical containing a cyclic ring ~~amino acid radical~~, substituted with 2 or 3 ~~groups X~~ substituents, which that are identical or different, and each of which

——— X represents ~~a group other than hydrogen that, as compared to where X is hydrogen,~~

limits the diffusion in the culture medium of the α -keto acid produced by the deamination of

the cyclic amino acid compound, as compared to where each of said substituents is not present,

wherein at least one of said 2 or 3 substituents is selected from the group consisting of naphthalene-sulfonyl, tosyl-sulfonyl and mesitylene-sulfonyl.

31. (Currently Amended) Compound according to claim 30, characterized in that said 2 or 3 substituents X ~~is~~are chosen from hydrophobic groups.

32. (Currently Amended) Compound according to claim 30, ~~characterized in that X is chosen from~~ wherein said 2 or 3 substituents are each selected from the group consisting of naphthalene-sulfonyl, tosyl-sulfonyl and mesitylene-sulfonyl.

33. (Previously Presented) Compound according to claim 31, characterized in that it is O-(2-naphthalene-sulfonyl)-tyrosine.

34. (Previously Presented) Compound according to claim 31, characterized in that it is 4-O-toluene-sulfonyl-L-tyrosine.

35. (Previously Presented) Compound according to claim 31, characterized in that it is N-toluene-sulfonyl-L-histidine.

36. (Currently Amended) Method for preparing the compounds according to claim 30, comprising the following steps:

- (a) formylation of the residue R,
- (b) addition of a salt of ~~X~~ each of said 2 or 3 substituents onto the residue R formylated according to (a),
- (c) deformylation of the residue R substituted according to (b).

37. (Previously Presented) Culture medium for microorganisms, comprising, besides the ingredients required for culturing said microorganisms, at least one compound according to claim 30, as a detection agent.

38. (Previously Presented) Culture medium according to claim 37, characterized in that the weight concentration of the detection agent(s) is between 0.025 and 5 g/l of culture medium.

39. (Previously Presented) Culture medium according to claim 37, wherein weight concentration of the detection agent(s) is between 0.1 and 2 g/l.

40. (Currently Amended) Culture medium according to claim 37, further comprising a revealing agent comprising a color or fluorescent indicator.

41. (Previously Presented) Culture medium according to claim 37, characterized in that it is in a gelled form.

42. (Previously Presented) Culture medium according to claim 37, characterized in that it also comprises at least one other detection agent for demonstrating, by forming a colored or fluorescent product, an enzymatic activity which is different from that demonstrated by the compound of general formula (I).

43. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 22, wherein ~~✕~~ represents each of said 2 or 3 substituents is a group that associates with or binds to constituents of the cells of the microorganisms to limit diffusion.

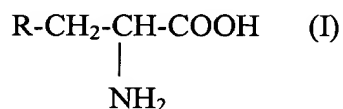
44. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 23, wherein ~~✕~~ represents each of said 2 or 3 substituents is a group that limits diffusion in hydrophilic medium.

45. (Currently Amended) Compound according to claim 30, wherein ~~✕~~ represents each of said 2 or 3 substituents is a group that associates with or binds to constituents of the cells of the microorganisms to limit diffusion.

46. (Currently Amended) Compound according to claim 31, wherein ~~✕~~ represents each of said 2 or 3 substituents is a group that limits diffusion in hydrophilic medium.

47. (Currently Amended) Detection agent comprising:

(1) at least one compound having the general formula (I):



in which:

— R represents an organic radical containing a cyclic ringamino acid radical, substituted with 1 ~~group~~ hydrophobic substituent;

— X represents:

— ~~any group of hydrophobic type that, as compared to where X is hydrogen, limits the diffusion of the α -keto acid produced by the deamination of the compound, as compared to where each of said substituents is not present~~ cyclic amino acid, in a hydrophilic medium, or

— ~~any group that~~ 1 substituent that binds to constituents of the cells of the microorganisms, and

(2) a revealing agent comprising a color or fluorescent indicator that produces a coloration or fluorescence with the at least one compound.

48. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein said 1 to 3 substituents are each selected from the group consisting of methyl, benzyl, carboxybenzoyl, dansyl, naphthalene, sulfonyl, tosyl, mesitylene, toluene, naphthalene-sulfonyl, toluene-sulfonyl, and N-ind-mesitylene-sulfonyl.

49. (New) The compound of claim 30, wherein said 2 or 3 substituents are each selected from the group consisting of methyl, benzyl, carboxybenzoyl, dansyl, naphthalene, sulfonyl, tosyl, mesitylene, toluene, naphthalene-sulfonyl, toluene-sulfonyl, and N-ind-mesitylene-sulfonyl.

50. (New) The detection agent of claim 47, wherein said substituent is selected from the group consisting of methyl, benzyl, carboxybenzoyl, dansyl, naphthalene, sulfonyl,

tosyl, mesitylene, toluene, naphthalene-sulfonyl, toluene-sulfonyl, and N-ind-mesitylene-sulfonyl.